MAR 22 7013 1 KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California Board of Vocational Nursing GREGORY J. SALUTE and Psychiatric Technicians Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 KÉVIN J. ŘIGLEÝ Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 131800 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 5 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 620-2558 6 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 Attorneys for Complainant 7 8 BEFORE THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS 9 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. PT-2011-2626 12 BRAD OKPOKO, aka AFAMEFUNA BRADLEY OKPOKO 13 16229 Da Vinci Drive ACCUSATION Chino Hills, CA 91709 14 15 Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 32012 16 Respondent. 17 18 Complainant alleges: 19 **PARTIES** 20 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in 21 her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric 22 Technicians, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board). 23 2. On or about January 26, 2004, the Board issued Psychiatric Technician License No. 24 PT 32012 to Brad Okpoko, aka Afamefuna Bradley Okpoko (Respondent). The Psychiatric 25 Technician License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein 26 and will expire on November 30, 2013, unless renewed. 27 /// 28 /// 1

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### **JURISDICTION**

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

## **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

- 4. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under section 4545, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within four (4) years after the expiration.
- 5. Section 490 provides that the Board may suspend or revoke a license when it finds that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensed psychiatric technician.
- 6. Section 4520 provides that the Board may discipline any licensed psychiatric technician for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 4520) of the Psychiatric Technicians Law (Code § 4500, et. seq.)
  - 7. Section 4521 states, in pertinent part:

"The board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the Psychiatric Technicians Law (Bus. & Prof Code, 4500, et seq.)] for any of the following reasons:

"(a) Unprofessional conduct, . . .

"(d) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or terms of this chapter.

"(f) Conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a psychiatric technician, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the

commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline.

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"(m) The commission of any act punishable as a sexually related crime, if that act is substantially related to the duties and functions of the licensee. . . ."

## **REGULATORY PROVISION**

8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2578, states:

"For the purposes of denial, suspension, or revocation of a license pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the Business and Professions Code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed psychiatric technician if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a licensed psychiatric technician to perform the functions authorized by his license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. . . ."

## **COST RECOVERY**

9. Section 125.3 provides that a Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

## **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

# (Conviction of a Substantially Related Crime)

- 10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 490 and 4521, subdivision (f), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2578, in that on or about May 31, 2011, Respondent was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed psychiatric technician which to a substantial degree evidences his present or potential unfitness to perform the functions authorized by his license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. The circumstances of the conviction are as follows:
- a. On or about May 31, 2011, after pleading nolo contendere, Respondent was convicted of one interlineated misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 242 [simple battery] in the criminal proceeding entitled *The People of the State of California v. Afamefuna Bradley Okpoko* (Super. Ct. Los Angeles County, 2010, No. 0PK06653). The Court placed Respondent

on three (3) years probation, and ordered him to complete ten (10) days of Cal Trans duty, stay away from the victim ("L.H."), and to pay restitution.

b. The circumstances surrounding the conviction are that on or about July 26, 2010, while on duty as a psychiatric technician at Lanterman Developmental Center<sup>1</sup> (LDC), Respondent accelerated a friendly hug with a co-worker, L.H., to refusing to let her go while holding her tightly, kissing her on the mouth and forcing his tongue into her mouth approximately ten times, placing his hand on her buttocks and moving it between her legs to her vaginal area, and pulling her closer such that his erect penis was pressed against her person – all while ignoring L.H.'s repeated demands that he stop engaging in such conduct against her will.

## **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

## (Unprofessional Conduct - Lanterman Developmental Center)

11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 4521, subdivision (a), in that on or about July 26, 2010, Respondent committed acts of unprofessional conduct that resulted in the dismissal of his employment as a psychiatric technician at LDC. Effective on or about December 27, 2011<sup>2</sup>, at the end of his shift, Respondent was dismissed from his position as a psychiatric technician at LDC for the following: a) inexcusable neglect of duty; b) insubordination; c) dishonesty; d) conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; e) discourteous treatment of the public or to other employees; f) willful disobedience; g) misuse of state property or time; h) other failure of good behavior; and i) unlawful discrimination. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraph 10, subparagraphs a and b, inclusive, as though set forth fully.

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<sup>1</sup> State of California – Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Developmental Services, Lanterman Developmental Center, Pomona (LDC).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> On December 19, 2011, a Notice of Adverse Action was filed and served on Respondent. Respondent appealed. On August 21, 2012, in the administrative matter entitled *Afam Okpoko v. Department of Developmental Services*, Appeal from Dismissal, Case No. 11-2538, a Resolution adopted the Proposed Decision, dated July 23, 2012, sustaining Respondent's dismissal from LDC.

## THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 1 (Sexual Misconduct) Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 4521, subdivision (m), in 3 that on or about July 26, 2010, Respondent committed substantially related acts of sexual 4 misconduct. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth 5 above in paragraphs 10, subparagraph (b), and 11, inclusive, as though set forth fully. 6 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE** (Unprofessional Conduct / Violate Psychiatric Technicians Law) 8 13. 9 Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 4521, subdivisions (a) and 10 / or (d), in that Respondent committed acts of unprofessional conduct, and / or acts violating the Psychiatric Technicians Law. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the 11 allegations set forth above in paragraphs 10 - 12, inclusive, as though set forth fully. 12 **PRAYER** 13 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, 14 15 and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision: Revoking or suspending Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 32012, issued to 16 Brad Okpoko, aka Afamefuna Bradley Okpoko; 17 Ordering Brad Okpoko, aka Afamefuna Bradley Okpoko to pay the Board the 18 19 reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to section 125.3; and 3. 20 Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 21 22 MAR 2 2 2013 23 DATED: J.D., M.S.N., R.N. 24 **Executive Officer** Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians 25 Department of Consumer Affairs

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State of California

Complainant